

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

HONOURING GRADUATES CELEBRATING SUCCESS!



COVID-19
UPDATE

LIFE AFTER
LOCKDOWN

FOR THE LOVE OF
READING

STRENGTHENING READING
AND LITERACY

ECD

PROGRAMME UPDATE |
FEEDING SCHEMES |
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SAEP
ANGELS

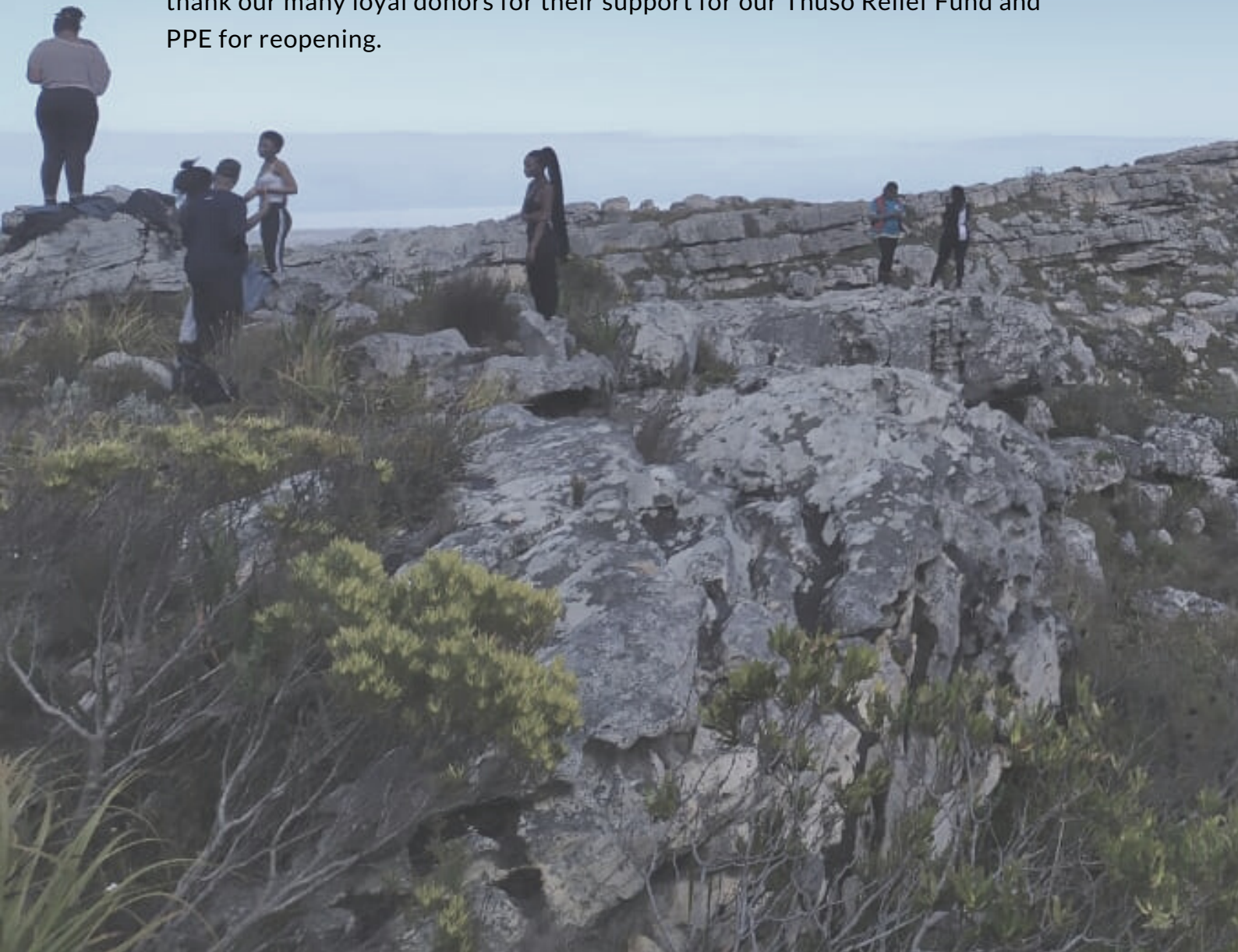
A SPECIAL
THANK YOU

Some exciting innovations and changes...

We have passed the spring equinox, the days are growing longer and spring flowers are out all around us. Good rains have given us hope for the coming year. At the same time, the restrictions to control the spread of COVID-19 have been eased to level 1, allowing us to return to many activities while staying safe and protecting each other.

At SAEP we are reopening our programmes cautiously, complying stringently with the safety requirements. In spite of the pressure and the new challenges, it is exciting to be back doing what we do, knowing that it makes a difference in the lives of the children and young people in our programmes.

In this newsletter we share some of our exciting innovations and changes and thank our many loyal donors for their support for our Thuso Relief Fund and PPE for reopening.





Hiking again!

One of the hardest things about the State of Disaster was that parks, beaches and the mountains were closed to us for a long time. This is changing and now that hiking in groups is permitted again, we are back on the mountain. On 17 September there was a hike in Silvermine Nature Reserve, attended by 19 students of the Tertiary Support Programme – and we plan two more hikes for them in October.

Students and learners in other programmes will also be introduced to hikes, starting with older groups who are better able to keep to the rules about distancing, wearing masks and washing hands.





We honour our graduates

Tertiary Support Programme (TSP) celebrated the graduation of 10 beneficiaries at a lunch recently. We honour these students, who succeeded against the odds.

TSP has held workshops – a coaching workshop facilitated by Krystle Kustanovich of the South African College of Applied Psychology (SACAP), and one on writing CVs facilitated by Mariam Awlia, an adviser.

Azi shares his story



CLICK TO PLAY THE VIDEO





Book dash

We received five boxes of lovely books to distribute among children in our ECD and primary school programmes.

The books are given to the children to take home and make their own, boosting their love of reading and strengthening literacy.



Primary school reading and literacy

Since schools have reopened, Siyakhathala Primary Programme (SPP) has been working with Grade 7 learners in Siyazakha Primary School to support English reading and learning, applying the techniques used in the after-school programme to help learners who are catching up or making up for time lost during lockdown.

This is a higher grade than SPP has worked with before, but it is also an important transitional stage in the children's schooling. The learners developed a play based on one of their class reading books.

In Grade 5, peer tutors are working to strengthen reading and literacy.





Early Childhood Development

A lot has changed since the easing of restrictions to Level 1, but we are very aware that there are still many hungry children. SAEP is supporting eight ECD centres that run community feeding schemes in Philippi for local children. Each centre provides a nutritious meal each week to about 50 children.

Generous funding from Lewis Stores has allowed us to extend the scheme until the end of the year.



After lockdown

As centres moved to reopen, we worked to ensure the safety of children and staff, compliance with the COVID-19 protocols and provided food and personal protective equipment (PPE).

We helped the centres to assess their readiness to operate and comply with the regulations of the Department of Social Development (DSD), in order to submit the results to DSD.



SOP and PPE support

Centres appealed for support in understanding and applying the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) required by DSD. SOPs were distributed in a 68-page document which many principals found hard to work with. Our ECD team organised a full day's training for groups of centre principals in which the SOPs were simplified and broken down to be easily understood and applied.

To date 109 centres have been trained and supported with basic PPE, posters, and templates to assist their reopening process. DSD made a significant grant to provide PPE for centres as they reopen.





Feeding the children

Unregistered ECD centres have been without income for more than six months since the lockdown was announced. To enable them to reopen and to feed the children in their care, SAEP is providing food hampers to provide nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch. It is crucial that children from very poor families, whose parents have lost their incomes are fed properly and their nutritional needs met.

As the centres have reopened, they have found that children's attendance has been low, increasing slowly. There are a number of reasons for this: parents are uncertain about the safety of ECD centres, many are unable to pay the fees, and as school children are at school only two days per week, some families depend on older children to care for the younger ones. We have advised principals to meet parents and caregivers to explain to them the protocols to maintain safety at the centres and reassure them of their knowledge and commitment to safety and health of the children and their families.

By the middle of September, 78 ECD centres (36 registered and 42 unregistered) had reopened and SAEP had started visiting centres to mentor their compliance with COVID-19 SOPs and check on the level of attendance of children, supporting and sustaining the centres.

ECD Booster Project

All 15 principals in this programme, sponsored by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT), received basic computer training and each was equipped with a laptop and start-up data package to enable them to perform their administrative tasks electronically as well as complete funding applications, send and receive emails, etc. This will contribute significantly to the viability of their centres in the long term. Mentoring support for these principals started in September.

SUCCESSFUL REGISTRATION!

We are pleased and proud that **Qhamani Educare Centre** (pictured top left) has been granted conditional registration and will be able to move to full registration. Qhamani is a beneficiary of our Booster Programme, and received funds from DEDAT to install the necessary fire-escape to achieve compliance.

Forever Educare has also achieved registration with DSD. Through the collaboration and synergy of different programmes - Rotary Injongo, ELRU (Early Learning Resource Unit) and SAEP and the Booster Programme, the centre has achieved compliance. We congratulate everybody involved.



Coming and going

We take leave of our finance team, Steven Bosch and Luyanda Kota, thanking them for their service to our organisation, and welcome Le-Zanne van der Westhuizen (pictured left) as the new full time finance manager.

Our Mandela month appeal

"Help keep our ECD centres safe" – received a warm and generous response from funders. We thank the many donors who supported us to provide training, protective equipment and food to ECD centres as they reopened. And the donations keep coming.

Washing their
hands as ECDs open



[CLICK TO PLAY THE VIDEO](#)

SAEP angels

We want to say a special thank you to our regular donor angels who keep SAEP afloat and help to pay the bills each month. Angels are usually unseen but their touch is felt by many, especially when times are hard. Thank you to you all for your generous and much valued support!! If you are not yet a regular donor, please consider becoming an SAEP angel.

Become an
SAEP angel



[CLICK TO SIGN UP](#)

"SAEP is an amazing organisation that contributes on so many levels and does such wonderful work in the education field and in Philippi. It is a privilege to be able to support them!" -Debbie Stewart (SAEP angel)